

file - (original given to Barbara Morrison) 4/22
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO *287-70-1*

**OFFICE OF
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

April 20, 1970

**Proposed New Industrial Waste
Ordinance - Status Report**

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
City and County of San Francisco

Attention of Supervisor Robert H. Mendelsohn
Chairman of Health & Environment Committee

Gentlemen:

Since 1953 San Francisco has had an Industrial Waste Ordinance, which has never been updated or amended. There have been tremendous advances both in the technology of water pollution and also the thinking with regard the beneficial uses of the Bay, to the effect that what would have been permissible to discharge 15 years ago would not be allowed today. In addition, this ordinance has not been easily enforceable. Therefore it has been contemplated for some time that a completely new Industrial Waste Ordinance would be prepared so that we can reasonably and economically protect the waters of the Bay as well as meeting the Regional Water Quality Control Board's requirements for discharge, and Mayor Alioto has recommended the preparation of an applicable ordinance.

It must be understood that in most instances it is much more economical to treat certain deleterious wastes at their point of origin where the volume of liquid to be handled is small rather than to try to remove this same deleterious material when mixed with the total flow at the treatment plant. We had contemplated submitting such an ordinance to the Board in October.

At a meeting in the Mayor's office on March 30th with State Board members, Regional Board staff, Supervisor Feinstein, Supervisor Mendelsohn and members of the City's staff, it was agreed among other things that the preparation of the Industrial Waste Ordinance would be expedited and submitted to the Board during the week of April 20. Supervisor Mendelsohn stated that he would introduce such legislation as soon as it was prepared. A first draft of this ordinance which should be sufficient for discussion purposes is now being prepared and will be submitted during this week. The commitment made at the above-referred-to meeting has also been publicly stated by the Mayor during his appearance at the various Regional Board meetings.

Basically the philosophy of this ordinance, as being prepared, is that domestic sewage or its equivalent characteristics should be accepted at all treatment plants without pretreatment but that any substance in the discharge from the industrial plant which might be harmful to the sewer system, the treatment plant or could not be easily treated at the plant and would be harmful to the receiving waters of the Bay, should be removed by the individual discharger prior to discharging into our sewer system.

Following are several of the more important points that will be included in this ordinance.

1. The influent to the Richmond-Sunset Sewage Treatment Plant, which serves an area that is generally residential in character with little industrial activity, would be used as the base for the type of discharge allowed by the industrial waste discharger.
2. This ordinance would cover restaurants, service stations and other type of industry or commercial ventures in addition to the normal industrial type establishment discharges from these types of occupancies are potentially harmful to the receiving waters.
3. Since there are approximately 3,000 to 4,000 industries in San Francisco it would be a tremendous task involving a large amount of new employments were the City to investigate and test the discharges from each establishment. Therefore the pattern similar to that used by the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be employed. This will require that each discharger individually have necessary tests made by State certified laboratories, if their staff were not competent to so do, and to submit to the City. With a minimum number of additional employments the City would then spot-check these monitoring programs to be sure that they were valid.
4. A variance procedure before the Director of Public Works would be established to allow a variance from the requirements upon proof that while the discharge did not meet specific requirements of the ordinance that it would not have a deleterious effect upon the facilities or the Bay.
5. A Hearing Board would be established, similar to the Board of Examiners established under the San Francisco Building Code, as an appeal board to the orders.

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6. The enforcement provisions would generally provide that in the event of noncompliance after the time schedule had been set, side sewer connection could be plugged, and also there will be provisions for fines or misdemeanor provisions to be imposed by the Courts.

I trust the above is a satisfactory brief explanation of the ordinance which will be presented to you on Wednesday, April 22, 1970.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Mellon
Chief Administrative Officer

